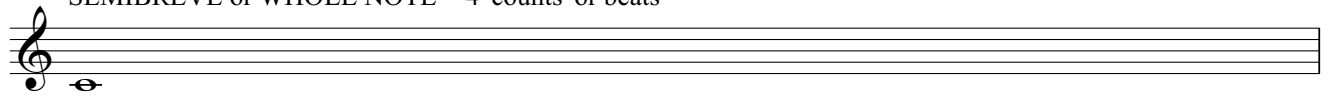


Basic Rudiments of Music Theory: RHYTHM

Whereas musical pitch is indicated by the position of the notehead on the lines and in the spaces, up or down on the staff, rhythm is represented by the type of note head, whether it has stems or flags, and dots to the right side of the noteheads. The TIME SIGNATURE tells us how many beats we have in each bar. It can consist of simple 2's, 3's or 4's, or compound time signatures, where each beat is divided into 3. The main types of notes can be found below, although you are unlikely to encounter many hemidemisemiquavers (unless you play late Beethoven piano sonatas!)

SEMIBREVE or WHOLE NOTE = 4 'counts' or beats



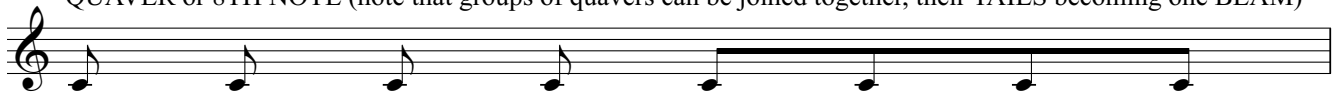
MINUM or HALF NOTE = 2 'counts'



CROTCHET or QUARTER NOTE = 1 'count'



QUAVER or 8TH NOTE (note that groups of quavers can be joined together, their TAILS becoming one BEAM)



SEMIQUAVER or 16TH NOTE



DEMISEMIQUAVER or 32ND NOTE



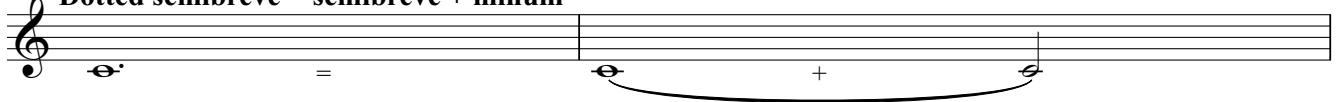
HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER or 64TH NOTE



When quavers and semiquavers are beamed together, each group usually represents ONE BEAT of each bar!!!!
eg. In 4/4 time, 8 semiquavers would be beamed into 2 groups of 4, each group representing one beat.

A dot (.) NEXT TO a note (not above or below it) makes the note one HALF of it's value LONGER.
[X. = X + 1/2X] for those who are mathematically-inclined! :)

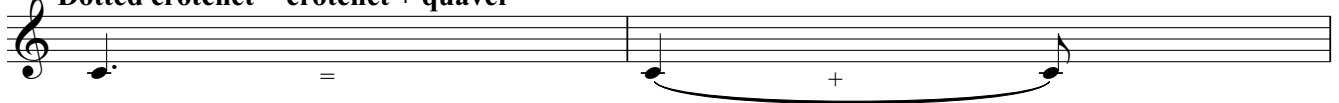
Dotted semibreve = semibreve + minum



Dotted minum = minum + crotchet



Dotted crotchet = crotchet + quaver



Dotted quaver = quaver + semiquaver



2 The length of each BAR is indicated by a TIME SIGNATURE. This is usually found at the beginning of a piece, written after the CLEF, but it can sometimes change during a piece. The top number indicates the NUMBER OF BEATS in each bar, and the bottom number shows what kind of note is to be used as the BEAT. The speed at which these 'beats' are played is relative to the TEMPO, which can range from extremely slow to extremely fast.

In this example we have four crotchet beats (or quarter notes) per bar. Also known as 'common time'. Note how the note values in the 3rd and 4th bars also add up to 4 beats.

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Here we have three crotchet beats (or quarter notes) per bar. Also known as 'waltz time'. Note how the dot next to the note in the last bar, makes that dotted minium (half note) 3 'counts' or beats long.

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

Two crotchet beats (or quarter notes) per bar. Also known as 'march time'. In the 3rd bar the two quavers (8th notes) are grouped together, and both fit into the same time as one beat.

1 2 1 2 1 + 2 1 2

Here we have four quaver beats (or 8th notes) per bar. Can be 'counted' the same way as common time. Note how the quavers and semiquavers have been flagged together.

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Here we have three quaver beats (or 8th notes) per bar. Can be 'counted' the same way as waltz time, but usually a little quicker.

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

In this example, we have two minium (or half note) beats per bar. Can be counted the same as march time, but generally, is a bit slower.

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

When you have an arching line underneath or above two notes of the SAME PITCH, this is known as a TIE. You'll need to add the two time values together, and NOT repeat the 2nd note.

hold for 4 counts hold for 3 counts hold for 2 counts

Exercises

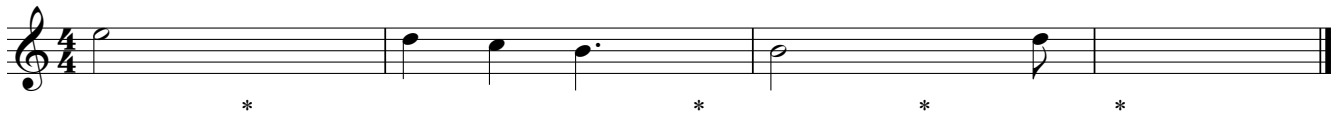
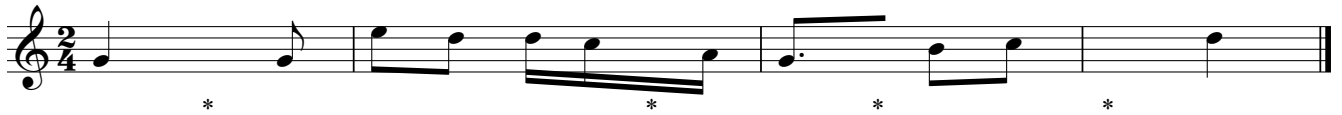
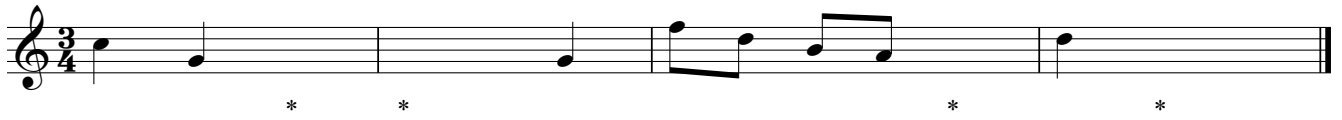
1. Write the correct TIME SIGNATURE at the beginning of each bar:



2. Noting the TIME SIGNATURE, draw in the BARLINES so that the following examples are grouped correctly in their BARS:



3. Noting the time signature, write in ONE note value (of any pitch) above each star * to complete the value of each bar correctly:



4. How many **QUAVERS** (8th notes) are each of these notes equal to?

- i) = quavers
- ii) = quavers
- iii) = quavers
- iv) = quavers
- v) = quavers

5. How many **CROTCHETS** (quarter notes) are each of these notes equal to?

- i) = crotchets
- ii) = crotchets
- iii) = crotchets
- iv) = crotchets
- v) = crotchets

5. Write ONE note to represent the same time value as the following groups of notes:

eg. + =

- i) + =
- ii) + =
- iii) + =
- iv) + + =
- v) + + + + =



6. Rewrite the above music on the staff below, remembering to add your time signature, and then grouping (beaming) all the quavers and semiquavers into their correct groups:

